

July 24, 2000

Prepared by the staff of the Conservative Action Team

*For additional information contact Neil Bradley at 202-226-2273  
or Sheila Moloney at 6-2075*

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The following measures may be voted on by the House on Monday, July 24:

**H.R. 2773 — WEKIVA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT OF 2000**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** CBO estimates the bill would cost taxpayers about \$100,000 annually, subject to appropriation.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes, the bill adds 41.6 miles of the Wekiva River, Wekiva Springs Run, Rock Springs Run, and Black Water Creek, Florida to the National Wild and Scenic River System. The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish an advisory council to develop a comprehensive management plan for the river. In addition, the bill authorizes the Secretary to provide financial and other assistance to the State of Florida, local governments, landowners, and private organizations for activities related to carrying out the management plan.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific authority.

**H. CON. RES. 371--SUPPORTING NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG  
RECOVERY MONTH**

**Cost to Taxpayer:** None. Sense of the House.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Summary:** The resolution notes that September 2000 is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month and expresses the support of Congress for the goals and ideas of this month.

**S. CON. RES. 81--SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING CHINESE PRISONERS**

**Cost to Taxpayer:** None. Sense of the House.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The Resolution states that China should immediately release current political prisoners Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary, and her son, and permit them to move to the United States if they so desire. The three were arrested on August 11, 1999 as they were attempting to meet a group of congressional staff on

an official visit to China. Kadeer has been sentenced to 8 years in prison 'with deprivation of political rights for two years' for the crime of 'illegally giving state information across the border'. Along with 5 children, 3 sisters, and a brother, her husband Sidik Rouzi, lives in the US (since 1996), works for Radio Free Asia, and has been critical of the China's policy toward Uighurs in Xinjiang. Reports indicate that Ablikim Abdiyirim was sent to a labor camp for 2 years without trial for 'supporting Uighur separatism,' and that Rabiya Kadeer's secretary was recently sentenced to 3 years in a labor camp.

## **H.R. 4002 — FAMINE PREVENTION AND FREEDOM FROM HUNGER IMPROVEMENT ACT**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** While the bill expands the scope of existing programs, it would not specifically authorize an increase in funding. Therefore, the cost to the taxpayer would continue at the current rate of about \$30 million a year.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes, the bill expands current programs designed to help third-world countries in developing a sustainable agriculture system by providing them with assistance from U.S. land-grant and sea-grant universities. The bill expands those eligible to receive funds to include universities and "public and private partners of universities," which is defined as including "university beneficiary groups, other educational institutions, United States Government and state agencies, private voluntary organizations, nongovernmental organizations, firms operated for profit, nonprofit organizations, multinational banks." The bill also provides an expanded definition of agriculture which includes agricultural economics and other social sciences, floraculture, and other environmental and natural resources sciences.

The bill also states under general provisions that universities and their public and private partners need a dependable source of federal funding not requiring State matching funds as well as matched funding and other financing.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report and therefore a citation of Constitutional authority is unavailable.

## **H.R. 4697 — INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE ACT**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** While the bill would expand current programs to include programs to promote good governance in other countries, the bill does not authorize any specific funds for this purpose, rather such activities would be eligible for funding under other broader authorizations. CBO estimates that spending on good governance programs would continue at approximately the current rate of \$16 million a year.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes, the bill authorizes the establishment of programs that "combat corruption, improve transparency and accountability, and promote other forms of good governance" in certain foreign countries. Projects under this program may include technical assistance, drafting of statutory and administrative codes, support for independent media, and the financing of programs and operating costs of nongovernmental organizations that carry out such projects,

and the assistance for travel for individuals involved in such activities.

The bill also requires an annual report to Congress on the projects and activities carried out under the authorizations of the bill.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report and therefore a citation of Constitutional authority is unavailable.

## **H.R. 4110 — AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** The bill authorizes \$10 million a year through 2005 for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the same amount authorized for the Commission in 2000. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost the taxpayer \$34 million over the FY 2002 to 2005 period, assuming appropriations of the authorized amount.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No, the bill extends the current program which provides grants to archivists, historians, State and local government, and non-federal agencies and institutions for the purpose of preserving, publishing, and encouraging the use of historical documents and recordings relating to the history of the United States.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 (to make Rules for the government) and Clause 18 (make all laws necessary and proper).

## **H.R. 1800— AMENDMENT TO THE VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT RELATING TO INFORMATION REPORTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** While a CBO cost estimate is not available, the bill should not impact federal spending.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes, the bill requires that as a condition of receiving a grant for correction facilities, States report information regarding the death of any prisoner that has been incarcerated or is en route to be incarcerated at any municipal or county jail, State prison, or other State or local facility. The information, at a minimum, must include the name, gender, ethnicity, and age of the deceased, date, time, and location of death, and the circumstances surrounding the death.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report and therefore a citation of Constitutional authority is unavailable.

## **H.R. 4700 — CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO THE KANSAS AND MISSOURI METROPOLITAN CULTURE DISTRICT COMPACT**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No. The bill provides Congressional approval to an amendment to the 1994 Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan District Culture Compact approved by both Kansas and Missouri.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee cites Article I, Section 10, Clause (3) (requiring Congressional approval for interstate compacts).

## **H.J.RES. 72 — CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS TO THE RED RIVER BOUNDARY COMPACT**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No. The bill provides Congressional approval to an agreement between Oklahoma and Texas clarifying the boundary between the States.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee cites Article I, Section 10, Clause (3) (requiring Congressional approval for interstate compacts).

## **H. RES. 548 -- IN GOD WE TRUST**

**Cost to Taxpayer:** None. Sense of the House.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed but the resolution states that this concept is as "integral a part of the First Amendment as the very words of that charter of religious liberty" and that the Founding Fathers believed devotedly that there was a God and that the unalienable rights of man were rooted in Him, is clearly evidenced in their writings, from the Mayflower Compact to the Constitution itself.

**Summary:** Expressing the sense that Congress "encourages the display of the National Motto of the United States of America in public buildings throughout our Nation."

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*The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the  
views of all Members of the Conservative Action Team.*

The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of almost 60  
House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).